

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03472 270039Z

62

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 EA-07 ARA-06 PM-04 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 L-03 /089 W

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R 270002Z AUG 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8897

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3472

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, UN, PFOR, MO, AG, SSM

SUBJECT: CALL OF NEW MOROCCAN PERM REP ON GOVERNOR SCRANTON

1. ON AUG 24 NEWLY ARRIVED MOROCCAN PERM REP ALI BENJELLOUN PAID COURTESY CALL ON GOV SCRANTON. GOV SCRANTON EXPRESSED U.S. APPRECIATION FOR MOROCCAN SUPPORT RE KOREA AND PUERTO RICO AT COLOMBO AND INDICATED THAT HE WOULD REITERATE TO SECRETARY KISSINGER THE POSITIVE ROLE WHICH MOROCCO PLAYED. BENJELLOUN ACKNOWLEDGED THE GOVERNOR'S THANKS AND SAID THAT HE WOULD REPORT THEM IMMEDIATELY TO RABAT.

2. BENJELLOUN EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT THE SUCCESS OF THE MOROCCAN RESOLUTION ON THE SAHARA AT COLOMBO, STRESSING THAT ONLY THE MOST RADICAL COUNTRIES HAD ENDORSED ALGERIA'S POSITION. HE SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY DOES NOT EXPECT THE SAHARA TO BE A MAJOR ISSUE AT THE UPCOMING G.A. SINCE THE COLOMBO RESOLUTION EFFECTIVELY ERASED ALGERIA'S PREVIOUS EFFORTS TO HIGHLIGHT IT. BENJELLOUN OPINED, HOWEVER, THAT ALGERIA IS UPREDICTABLE AND MIGHT ATTEMPT TO RAISE THE ISSUE DESPITE THEIR LOSS AT COLOMBO. BENJELLOUN WILL MEET WITH SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM AND PLANS TO DISCUSS THE SAHARAN MATTER WITH HIM.

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PAGE 02 USUN N 03472 270039Z

3. IN PRESENTING THE MOROCCAN POSITION RE THE SAHARA,

BENJELLOUN POINTED OUT THAT CONTROL OF THE SAHARA WOULD PROVIDE THE ALGERIANS WITH A STRATEGIC CORRIDOR TO THE ATLANTIC, ALLOWING THEM TO "POLICE" NORTH AND WEST AFRICA, TO GOV SCRANTON'S QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION WITHIN THE SAHARA, BENJELLOUN REPORTED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MOROCCAN ADMINISTRATION IN THE AREA, INCLUDING SCHOOLS, SECURITY POSTS AND HEALTH FACILITIES.

4. GOV SCRANTON MENTIONED U.S. POSITIONS ON PUERTO RICO AND KOREA AND HIS HOPE FOR CONTINUED MOROCCAN SUPPORT ON THOSE ISSUES AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. BENJELLOUN REPEATED ASSURANCES OF MOROCCAN FRIENDSHIP BUT COMMENTED THAT MOROCCO HOPES FOR NOT ONLY FRIENDSHIP FROM THE U.S. BUT ALSO "AID AND ADVICE."
BENNETT

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